

details, which, while valuable, might be omitted without damage. That Dr. Pilcher has succeeded in his endeavor his readers will bear witness.

The fact that one edition of the book has become exhausted shows that it is appreciated by those who have occasion to use such a work. Teachers in both civil and military circles who wish for a small but comprehensive book of reference as a basis for their instruction, and for recitation purposes, will find Dr. Pilcher's book well adapted to their needs. It has already been recommended as the standard text-book in many "red cross" societies, and by regimental surgeons who are engaged in organizing and instructing ambulance corps in their respective commands. The book is so small that it can easily be carried in the pocket or knapsack.

H. P. DE FOREST.

LA MOELLE ÉPINIÈRE ET L'ENCÉPHALE, avec applications physiologiques et médico-chirurgicales, et suivis d'un *Aperçu sur la Physiologie de l'Esprit*, par CH. DEBIERRE, professeur d'anatomie à la Faculté de Médecine de Lille. Royal 8vo, 450 pages; with 242 illustrations in black and in colors, and one chromolithogravure. Paris: Félix Alcan, Editor.

Debierre, who is professor of anatomy at the medical school at Lille, has already written a general descriptive anatomy, and the present volume takes up in detail the structure of the spinal cord and of the brain. The lectures of the author at the medical school have served as the basis upon which the present work has been developed, and the book is now presented to the medical world as, in a measure, a digest of these studies, modified and adapted to their new purpose.

The author has not confined himself to macroscopic anatomy alone; the histology, physiology, embryology, and morphology of the structures are also given, with their relationship to one another. These and similar studies upon corresponding fetal parts are com-

bined to throw light upon this comparatively obscure corner of human anatomy. Our knowledge of the evolution and functions of the great nerve-centres has been revolutionized within the past few years, and in their description from the stand-point of to-day, M. Debierre has considered the co-ordinate discussion of pathology and physiology as important for the student as for the practitioner; in this domain, especially, it is impossible to make an accurate diagnosis without a thorough knowledge of the anatomy and physiology of the structures involved.

When we examine the book in detail we are at once impressed by the very meagre table of contents, and by the entire absence of an index,—deficiencies which detract greatly from its value as a book of reference.

The chapters devoted to the general structure of the nerve-centres and to the meninges are short, but contain the essentials of the subject.

The main portion of the work is devoted to detailed descriptions of the various parts of the brain and of the cord; the articles upon the structure of the cord, the cerebral convolutions, the internal capsule, and cerebral localization, are especially noteworthy.

In the closing chapter M. Debierre has given a valuable account of psycho-physiology. The philosopher, as well as the physician, may study this chapter with advantage, for both should be familiar with the history of the mental faculties, and should know how they originate and develop, and how they are acquired, disturbed, or lost.

The illustrations used are numerous, and are well executed. Four colors are used in many of the plates; others are photogravures of specially-prepared specimens in the author's possession. In the articles upon the brain many of the illustrations are drawn from the domain of comparative anatomy, and are of unusual interest. Many diagrams are given to illustrate the relative position of fibres at various levels, and beside these there is a large chromolithogravure showing the course of nerve-fibres in the central nerve tracts.

The work contains the results of many personal researches of the author, and the most recent-published results of investigations upon the same subjects. For the specialist, or for the student desirous of becoming conversant with the minutiae of the subject, the book will be found to be a worthy companion for the similar works of Obersteiner and of Edinger.

H. P. DE FOREST.

LES CENTRES CÉRÉBRAUX DE LA VISION ET L'APPAREIL NERVEUX VISUEL INTRA-CÉRÉBRAL. Par le Dr. VIALET, Ancien Interne des Hôpitaux de Paris. Avec une préface de M. le Dr. DÉJERINE. Paris: Félix Alcan, 1893. Price, 15 francs.

This is a very elaborate work of 355 pages, illustrated by sixteen phototype plates, besides numerous cuts in the text,—ninety figures in all. It is directed especially to neurologists and ophthalmologists, but also to every student of the finer cerebral anatomy and pathology.

The first part (forty-eight pages) gives a relatively brief review of the anterior or extra-cerebral anatomy. The second part gives the corresponding intra-cerebral anatomy, an abstract of eighty-eight pathological cases collected from the literature of the subject, a close study both clinically and pathologically of five personally observed cases, and, finally, a summary review of the established facts.

So complete a work on one of the most advanced branches of practical neurology is necessarily interesting both from its presentation of what is already known and for any new light that it may shed. His five cases include three of cuneus lesion with hemianopsia, and two of word-blindness from lesion of the angular gyrus.

In the final chapter, six distinct questions or problems are considered on the basis of all the cases given. His very modestly-stated conclusions can only be given in part,—

(1) Localization of the cortical visual centre. The hemianopsia that complicates word-blindness is only produced by a destruction of the deep intra-cerebral visual fibres. The cortical centre of vision